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THE
DUCHESS OF YORK:

AN
ENGLISH STORY.

VOL. I.



THE
DUCHESS OF YORK:

AN
ENGLISH STORY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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(v)

P R E F A C E.

TRULY conscious to the demerits of this work, I wish to offer a few arguments, that may tend to deprecate the sentence which might justly be passed on it.

Had a presumptuous confidence in my talents, incited me to take up the pen, I

A 3 should,

should, by challenging criticism, have merited its censures —but no such sentiments influenced me.

The vicissitudes of life cast me from a state of affluence; a resource was to be sought; several friends recommended the path of literature; the suggestions of diffidence were silenced by the pleas of necessity; hence, I was induced to make this attempt.

The

The history I have chosen, consists of a chain of events, interesting, affecting, and tending to inculcate that truth, of so much consequence to us, to believe, That a moral justice prevails, even in this world, and gives, either publicly or privately, to vice and virtue, their punishment and reward.

The facts related, are given on unquestionable authority; I have made no alteration in them, and only such additions as I thought absolutely requisite (these

I shall

I shall mark in a note) as I wished to give fiction no more place than was necessary in a work, which I had rather should inform the mind than captivate the fancy.

The aids of imagination have not extended to any event, that interferes with the chain of historic events.

The subject would, in abler hands, have had more justice done it; but, though devoid of the advantages of fine writing,

ting, and the embellishments of genius, yet, as it possesses the most material property of such a work, a good moral, I trust it will meet the indulgence of those who may peruse it.

By those, whose hearts interest them in all that relates to estimable characters, the following testimony, given by one of our best historians, of the worth of him, who has a principal part in these memoirs, will not be deemed superfluous.

“ Claren-

“ Clarendon was always a
“ friend to the liberty and the
“ constitution of his country.
“ At the commencement of the
“ civil wars, he had entered
“ into the late King’s service,
“ and was honored with a great
“ share in the esteem and friend-
“ ship of that monarch.

“ He was pursued with un-
“ relenting animosity by the long
“ parliament ; he had shared all
“ the fortunes, and directed all
“ the councils, of the present
“ King during his exile.
“ He

“ He had been advanced to the
“ highest trust and offices, after
“ the Restoration ; yet, all these
“ circumstances, which might na-
“ turally operate with such force,
“ either on resentment, grati-
“ tude or ambition, had no in-
“ fluence on his uncorrupted
“ mind.”

The last time the Earl of
Southampton appeared at the
council-board, he exerted his
friendship with a vigor, which
neither age nor infirmities could
abate.

“ This

“ This man,” said he, speaking of Lord Clarendon, “ is
“ a true Protestant, and an honest Englishman ; and while
“ he enjoys power, we are secure of our laws, liberty, and
“ religion.”

DUCHESS

DUCHESS OF YORK:

AN

ENGLISH STORY.

LETTER I.

THE

MARCHIONESS OF ORMOND

TO

LADY MORDAUNT.

London, May 11th, 1662.

EVER happy to oblige a friend so truly valued as my dear Lady Mordaunt, I should have complied more immediately with her request of information, respecting the marriage of the Duchess of York, which

VOL. I.

B

is

is the subject of so much conversation; but, as many of the particulars were confided to me by herself, I could not, without her permission, disclose the history, even to the friend I have the most reliance on. I have now obtained that permission, and will proceed to give you the intelligence you require.

Few persons are more competent to this than myself, having been an eye-witness to some of the most interesting events that have happened on the occasion, and having learned the rest from the Duchess, and my Lord, whose friendship with the Earl of Clarendon has continued through their lives, and who has been his
com-

companion in almost every event of any importance.

As other parts of the family will have a great share in this narration, and as I know it will please you, my being minute, I shall relate some anecdotes of, and give you some insight into, the characters of those to whom she owes her birth.

The Earl of Clarendon, father to the Duchess, is descended from an ancient family, the Hydes, of Wiltshire. His father and mother were remarkable for their piety and virtue; and I have often heard the earl say, since his attainment of the high honor which he now enjoys, that though

the Almighty had been very propitious to him in advancing him to such great preferments, he did not value any honor he had, so much as being the son of such a father and mother; for whose sake, principally, he thought God had conferred those blessings upon him.—You will judge hence, my dear Lady Mordaunt, how worthy he is of them.

A remarkable circumstance attended the death of Mr. Hyde. In the twentieth year of his age, he was desirous of removing to Salisbury, where many of his family and friends resided, and where he wished to be buried with his ancestors.

He

He went accordingly. The second day after his arrival, he rose very early, and visited two or three churches; on his return, he told his wife and son that he had been to look out for a place to be buried in, but found none to which he had not some objection, the cathedral only excepted, where he had made choice of a place near a kinsman of his own name, and had shewn it to the sexton, whom he sent for to that purpose, and wished them to see him buried there.

He spoke this with the utmost composure, and spent the whole day in cheerful conversation with his friends.

The next day, finding himself a little indisposed, while at church, he hastened home, and just reached a lower apartment, when he fell down and expired, without moving a limb, or uttering a groan.

His death was universally lamented; but to none did it cause a grief more deep and permanent, than to his son, who loved and revered him as the best of fathers, and respected and esteemed him as the first of friends.

The impression of his father's virtues are strongly marked in Lord Clarendon: to a piety rational and fervent, he unites an integrity so pure, that no interest, no affection,

no

no motive, however great or alluring, could even shake it; its trials have been great, and were sustained in a manner that has given him an higher exaltation in the eyes of the estimable part of mankind, than all those which fortune has bestowed on him; an affectionate and attentive husband, a tender father, and a kind master; he fulfils, to its utmost extent, all that religion, morality, and the laws of social life enjoins.

His character will unfold itself to you better than I can describe it, in the course of this narrative; but there is a pleasure in speaking of amiable characters which I could not deny myself, and I am sure of your indulgence.

Having thus, my dear Lady Mordaunt, introduced you to the father, and grandfather of my heroine, for to that title, you will find, she has all the claim, which superior excellence, and virtue, severely tried, can give her, I will conclude.

In my next you shall become acquainted with the mother of the Duchess, and, perhaps, with the lovely Ann Hyde herself.

Adieu! my dear Lady Mordaunt, believe me, with the utmost sincerity,

Your affectionate friend,

A. ORMOND.

LETTER II.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

May 15th, 1662.

THE pleasure you express in the reading my account, augments the satisfaction I feel in relating the history of the amiable Hyde family.

I will observe your request of not omitting any particular, and of indulging my own reflections whenever they occur.

In compliance with the latter part of your requisition, I shall, previous to further particulars of the Duchess, im-

B 5 part

part to you some ideas that have struck me in contemplating Lord Clarendon's character. There are so many points resembling those in the late celebrated Duke de Sully, minister to Henry the Great, that the similitude has made a strong impression on my mind; each remarkable for the highest degree of piety, integrity, and loyalty, in times when such virtues were uncommon; the gaiety of our court, and its corruption, ~~being not~~ inferior to that of our monarch's grandfather. The fortune too of ~~these~~ great men seems to partake the resemblance; each accompanies a banished monarch; shared his misfortunes; and, on his restoration, met the reward of their loyalty and fidelity, in the un-
bounded

bounded confidence of their masters, and the honors conferred on them.

As an Englishwoman, I cannot however but feel elated, that in the balance of virtue, our countryman has the advantage; for to all the merits of Sully, Clarendon adds that of an indulgent parent; the Duke wanted that gentleness which attaches children; his, therefore, were alienated, while the Earl experience all the happiness that arises from affection and duty in our offspring.

In one instance, alone; has Lord Clarendon appeared to want indulgence towards a child; but as his integrity and fame were to balance
against

against parental tenderness, none whose suffrage is desirable, but will think his character exalted by the circumstance.

I shall now present you, my dear Lady Mordaunt, to Lady Clarendon. She was the daughter of Sir Thomas Aylesbury, Master of Requests to the King. As Lord Clarendon is conspicuous for every manly virtue, so is her Ladyship for every excellence that can adorn the character of woman. Never was man happier in his domestic connections than the Chancellor, nor ever was a human being more deserving such parents, such a wife and child, than he is.

I come

I come now to speak of her who is the chief subject of this narrative; I feel that my powers are unequal to the description of this all-charming woman; for when I have enumerated all that I have ever found of excellence in the human character, I must still have some merit, some grace, or some beauty untold; to know all the charms of her character, you must be as intimately acquainted with her as I am.

At an early age, Ann Hyde gave the promise of that perfection she has since attained. Her form and face are truly beautiful; ease and elegance adorn her figure; sweetness and animation are displayed in her countenance;

nance; her understanding is of the first order, and of that kind which is evinced more in the conduct than in conversation, for it is the guide of her every action; all that she does, seems to be done in a manner superior to what any other person could have done it; but in giving her the credit of that sense (which, in my opinion, is the most praise-worthy, which leads to consistency of conduct) I mean not to depreciate the charm of her conversation; in truth she possesses this in an eminent degree—a lively wit displayed itself in the most elegant language; yet so chastened by the sweetness and gentleness of her nature, that it was never known to wound.

With

With these captivating powers, the Duchess possesses the most exquisite sensibility, yet a patience no misfortune can shake. Of her generosity, and greatness of soul, you will have some strong instances in the course of her history: to this bright assemblage, she adds all those virtues which distinguish her excellent parents.

I could dwell much longer on a theme so grateful as that of describing the merits of this charming woman, but as you are unacquainted with her, and therefore cannot take that delight in the subject which animates me; and as I have already said sufficient, I know, to interest you, my dear friend, I will leave a picture

un-

unfinished, which, though I should employ my utmost power upon, would still fall short of the beauty of the original.—I will now proceed to the promised history.

When his Majesty resolved, immediately after the murder of his father, to send Lord Clarendon, then Sir E. Hyde, ambassador to Spain, Sir Edward, meaning to set out from the Hague, sent for his wife and family to meet him at ~~Antwerp~~, not chusing to trust them in **England** during his absence, for it was no unusual thing, at that period, for the parliament, when displeased with the conduct of any man who was out of their reach, to imprison his wife and children.

Sir

Sir Edward, whom I shall henceforth stile the Chancellor, as I wish to distinguish him by his most honorary title, and his conduct in that will place his name first in the list of those who are remarkable for the strict discharge of their trust.

The Chancellor returned from his embassy in two years to Antwerp, where his family remained.

The fatal success at Worcester, about this time, put a period to all his Majesty's present designs; and he had no sooner made his wonderful escape into France, than he sent for the Chancellor, who left his family, very indifferently provided for,
and

and hastened to Paris, where he found the King, with whom he remained, till his Majesty was even compelled to remove into Germany, which was about three years.

Judge, my dear Lady Mordaunt, of the sufferings of Lady Clarendon, at this cruel period.—Banished from her native country—separated from a husband, to whom she was united by all the tenderest and most powerful ties, and reduced to very narrow circumstances.

Her children, one daughter and three sons, were her sole consolation; she devoted all her time to them; and as Ann was the eldest, and her education

cation came more immediately within her province, to her chief attention was paid.

Early did she implant the seeds of virtue into her bosom, and her example gave strength to her precepts. She had the pleasure to see her daughter's mind readily imbibe the knowledge that ennobles and adorns it; the talents and graces which form the pleasing parts of a character, seemed to have been the gift of nature, they had ever distinguished themselves in her; and the embellishments gained by others with so much difficulty, appeared to cost her no pains in the acquisition.—Nature had bestowed all that was in her

her power on the lovely Ann Hyde; and the attentions of a mother, capable and desirous to complete the work, have made this accomplished woman a pattern of female excellence.

During this absence of the Chancellor, the Princess Royal, then resident in Holland, having learned the situation of his family, assigned them a house, which was at her disposal, at Breda.

For this acquisition, which was very considerable in their circumstances, they were indebted to the Chancellor's friend, Daniel O'Neile, who was of the King's bed-chamber, and in such high estimation with the Princess

Princess Royal, and her court, that his influence had very considerable weight.

Nor was this the only friendly office the Chancellor owed him, for through his interest and representations, Ann Hyde obtained the place of maid of honor to the Princess.

As the circumstances attending this appointment will illustrate the truth of my evidence of Lord Clarendon's virtues, and as they were the cause of all the most interesting events that will have a place in these memoirs, I will give it at large.

Nothing necessary to my narrative happening from the time of Lady.
Clarendon's

Clarendon's quitting Antwerp, till this event, a period of five or six years, when her daughter was arrived at the age of seventeen, I shall pass it over.

The King, solicitous to see a sister whom he affectionately loved, proposed to her to meet him at Spa; she, equally desirous of an interview, agreed to the proposal.

They had not been long there, when the small pox broke out; some of the Princess's women being attacked by it, it was thought expedient that her Royal Highness should remove to Aix-la-Chapelle.

She

She had not been there a day, when intelligence was brought her of the death of Mrs. Killegrew, one of her maids of honor.

Immediately that this event was known, Mr. O'Neile went to the Chancellor, and told him, that the Princess entertained a very favorable opinion of him, and was graciously inclined towards his family, which she knew had suffered much from his attachment to the King; and that she was sorry to find her mother, the Queen, less sensible to his merit and services than they deserved.

From these expressions, Mr. O'Neile was led to believe, that were the Chancellor

cellor to apply for the vacant place for his daughter, he would obtain it.

This he recommended to him to do immediately, because he was sure so soon as the Queen should hear there was a place vacant (she was then at Paris) she would recommend some lady of her own choice; the more strongly too, if there was an idea of his daughter's being appointed; that as dispatch was hence so necessary, he advised him to go directly to the King, to request his interest with his sister.

The Chancellor's reply to this I will give you in my next, and will conclude with a little anecdote, which
will

will evince the opinion the Queen had of the Chancellor's sincerity; though, through the misrepresentation of some of her creatures, she was prejudiced against him.—On the truth of it you may rely.

Her Majesty, about the time the Chancellor was going ambassador to Spain, was one day conversing with some of her ladies, who were most in her confidence, on a subject which excited great indignation in her. She said, there was a Lord of the council, whom she would not name, that always gave her the fairest words, promising all she required, and even persuading her to ask what she had never thought of herself; who, yet, she well knew, when the same was proposed

to the King, on her behalf, was the only man who dissuaded him from granting it.

Some of the ladies were very anxious to discover who was meant. The Queen would not tell; but one of them, who was known to think very favorably of the Chancellor, said, she hoped it was not him; upon which her Majesty, with some quickness, replied, she might be sure of that; for so far was he from making her promises, giving her fair words, or flattering her, that she did verily believe, if he thought her a w—— he would tell her of it.

He was told of this, and thought it a very honorable testimony.

But

But though her Majesty had been taught to believe the Chancellor was not her friend, yet she always did him the justice to acknowledge, she knew it was his wish that the King's conduct towards her should be kind and respectful; and it was her desire he should be about his Majesty, because he was assured of his faithful attachment—knew that his councils would always be dictated by virtue, and that he had more credit with the King than any other who was disposed to act fairly and honestly.

Adieu! my dear Lady Mordaunt,
believe me ever

Affectionately your's,

A. ORMOND.

LETTER III.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

May 20th, 1662.

I SHALL, without a prelude, my dear Lady Mordaunt, proceed to recount the Chancellor's reply to Mr. O'Neile.

After thanking him for the very friendly interest he took in his welfare, he told him he must decline his advice and services on this occasion; that he had but one daughter, who was the only source of consolation to her mother in her melancholy retirement; he could not, therefore, resolve to rob her of this comfort, and,
indeed,

indeed, had so ill an opinion of a court life, as to wish to preserve his daughter from the danger attending it.

Mr. O'Neile was much disappointed by this reply, having conceived that the proposal would be very grateful to the Chancellor; and then acknowledged that the subject had been mentioned to the Princess by Lady Chesterfield, and it was her desire that the proposal should come from the King; as she should, by that means, be sheltered from the Queen's reproaches. That her Royal Highness had, from her own observation, and the universal voice in her favor, entertained sentiments so favorable of his daughter, as had long made her resolve to

place her near her person on the first vacancy.

The Chancellor was much perplexed by this intelligence; but still solicitous that Ann should remain with her mother, conjured Mr. O'Neile to take no further steps towards a promotion so contrary to his wishes; and concluded, that his making no application, and the importunity of others who were solicitous for the honor, would put an end to the affair, in the way most acceptable to him.

The King, having heard of this business from the Princess, and highly approving her intention, expected that
the

the Chancellor would apply to him for his recommendation with some impatience. Finding him silent on the subject, he entered upon it himself, asking him why he did not solicit his interest? upon which the Chancellor related all that had passed between him and O'Neile, and that, for many reasons, he declined the honor proposed; therefore he had not profited of his Majesty's favorable intention towards him.

The King then told him, that his sister was so pleased with his daughter, that she was resolved on having her in her service; that she had herself, for the cause already mentioned, of shielding her from the Queen's

resentment, desired him to make it appear as his request; that he knew not how the Chancellor could, or why he should omit such an opportunity of providing for his daughter, by an establishment so honorable and advantageous.

The Chancellor told him he could not dispute the reasons with him, but that he could not bring himself to bear the idea of depriving his wife of her daughter's company; nor could think it possible for her to be more advantageously disposed off than with such a parent; that he would wait on the Princess to thank her for the honor intended him, and explain his reasons for rejecting it.

Accord-

Accordingly he went to her Royal Highness, and having expressed his grateful sense of her favorable intentions, told her he conceived the honor was not such as he could receive, nor the conjuncture propitious for her conferring it; that his narrow circumstances (which were known to her) would put it out of his power to make his daughter such an allowance, as would enable her to live at court in a stile suited to her situation.

The Princess would not permit him to enlarge on this subject, but very generously told him she knew how much his fortune was impaired, and her gratitude was excited by the occasion; she could never forget the

C 5 obligations

obligations her family owed to his loyalty and fidelity ; that she never could mean to put him to the expence of maintaining his daughter in her service—she always intended taking it on herself. To these she added many other expressions of esteem for him, and kindness towards his daughter.

He, prepared for this generosity, replied, that since her goodness disposed her to bestow such an honor, it became incumbent on him, in duty and gratitude, to preclude any ill effects arising to her from her benevolent intention towards him:—that he had the misfortune, with all the innocence and integrity of will imaginable,

ginable, to be more in the Queen her mother's disfavor, than any man who had had the honor to serve the crown so many years in such trust; that all the application he could make, nor the king's own interposition, could prevail with her majesty to receive him into her gracious opinion; that therefore, he was well aware that this kindness of her Royal Highness, to a family so obnoxious, would create displeasure in the breast of her mother towards her, and increase the weight of her severe indignation against him, which already so heavily oppressed him; he therefore resolved to prevent the mischief which would undoubtedly arise to her Highness, whom he could not bear to
think

think should suffer from her gracious condescension to his family.

To this the Princess replied, with some warmth, that she had ever paid the duty to the Queen her mother, which was due to her, and would never give her a just cause of offence; but that she was mistress of her own family, and was at liberty to chuse what servants she pleased; she conceived it would be a much greater offence against her Majesty, if she should refrain from a just and good action, to which she was inclined, from an apprehension of its being displeasing to the Queen. She said, she knew some ill offices had been done him with her mother, which concerned her

her extremely; she doubted not, however, but her Majesty would, in due time, discern that she had been deceived, and then would approve the step now taken. In the mean time, she was resolved to take his daughter, for whom she would send as soon as she returned into Holland,

The Chancellor, not in any degree converted, but struck by this candid and gracious discourse of her Royal Highness, knew not what answer to make; he therefore only told her, that he should leave his daughter to be disposed of by her mother, who he knew would be very unwilling to part with her; on which her Highness told him, she was sure they should

should agree upon the matter.—Here their discourse ended.

The Chancellor, who knew the uneasiness it would give Lady Clarendon to lose her daughter, wrote her immediately an account of all that had passed, and sought to strengthen her resolution not to separate from her; but when the Princess, at her return into Holland, sent to her and renewed her gracious offer, she, upon consultation with Doctor Morley (a particular friend of the Chancellor, in whose regard and understanding they had the most implicit confidence, and who then resided with the family) agreed that as the proposal was so very advantageous to
her

her child, she ought not to reject it. She therefore wrote her opinion to the Chancellor, and acquainted him that it had the concurrence of Doctor Morley.

I have heard Lord Clarendon say, that it appeared to him, from all these circumstances, that the hand of Providence directed the event.

He would therefore no longer resist, but referred the matter wholly to his wife; who, when she had presented her daughter to the Princess, went to reside with her husband, a circumstance productive of mutual happiness, for there cannot exist a
pair

pair more tenderly attached than Lord and Lady Clarendon.

It is not improbable that the motive of this re-union to a husband so long lost, might have some influence in disposing her to consent to this establishment of her daughter, as it would have precluded her accompaniment of him, had Ann remained with her mother.

Sincerely yours,

A. ORMOND.

LETTER IV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

May 25th, 1662.

MISS Hyde had not been long settled in the family of the Princess, when the Duke of York came to pay a visit to his sister.

You will easily conceive, my dear Lady Mordaunt, that so lovely a woman attracted his attention; he was charmed by her beauty, and sought every opportunity of seeing her.

* This relation of the course of the Duke of York's attachment to Miss Hyde, is the only part of this work that owes its origin to imagination, and the fact on which it is founded, is given on the best authority.

Fatal

Fatal to his repose was this indulgence; for, when on further acquaintance with her, he discovered that her mind was as lovely as her person; that she possessed all the graces, and all the virtues that ever adorned the female character, his heart was offered up as a tribute at the shrine of such excellence.

Every day, by discovering some new beauty in her character, rivetted his chains the more securely; and his esteem thus strengthening what his admiration had first caused, an affection of that nature which neither time, absence, or any other circumstance can conquer, fixed itself in his bosom.

Con-

Conscious of all the obstacles that placed themselves between his wishes, and their accomplishment, he strove to conquer a passion which promised only to be a source of uneasiness; but this resolution was of short duration—princes, my dear Lady Mordaunt, are not accustomed to oppose their wishes, or to have them opposed, he therefore changed his plan, and endeavoured to make an interest in the affection of his lovely mistress, leaving to chance the consequences.

He was, however, careful to conceal the situation of his heart from his sister—he doubted her approbation, though the object of his affection was so high in her favor;
and

and dreaded his mother's resentment, should she become acquainted with his attachment to one who was so obnoxious to her.

Aware that the eyes of all were directed to him, he took every possible precaution to prevent a discovery.

None but her who inspired the sentiment, had any suspicion of it; and whether the congenial feeling in her own bosom gave her the idea, by making her more quick-sighted, or whether his attention when opportunities occurred of their being unnoticed, marked his sentiments, I cannot

cannot determine, but they were not unknown to her.

Considering, however, the utter improbability of there being a happy issue to such an attachment, she assiduously sought to discourage any hope in her own mind, or any idea in his, that she was apprised of his preference—she therefore avoided every occasion of being in his company.

In spite however of all her resolutions to avoid him, he found means to obtain her society, as she could not, without giving cause for some suspicion, refrain from her usual attendance on the Princess, who was too much gratified by the idea that the
Duke's

Duke's continual attendance proceeded from attachment to herself, to seek any other cause of his being so constantly with her; as the more frequent the opportunities he had of seeing Miss Hyde, increased his admiration and esteem for her the more.

His affection became too strong for controul and concealment within his own breast; he could not deny himself the relief of making his sentiments known to her who inspired them.

He found an opportunity of doing this, acknowledging his attachment with that timidity and respect which a real affection inspires, and which was

was due to such a woman as Miss Hyde.

You will easily imagine the confusion this declaration gave her, for though she had penetrated his sentiments, she had not expected the avowal from him; and she feared he might have been encouraged to make it from a discovery of her prepossession.

Her embarrassment, however, continued not long; she possesses a clearness of judgment that teaches her immediately to discern what is right; and to know what is right, and to practice it are consequent in her eyes.

Though

Though love, for a short time hereafter, usurped the place of reason in her mind, as in every other where he finds admission, he had not yet obtained that empire: she therefore, when a few moments restored her to herself, represented to him how improper such a language was; reminded him of the insuperable objections there were to an union between them; and assured him, she would never put it in his power to address such a discourse to her in future.—She then left him.

Opposition, it is truly said, is the food of love—the less hope there was, the more was his Royal Highness bent on the accomplishment of his

his wishes; all the attentions affection employs, were shewn to soften the heart of his lovely mistress.

Long was the proof against them; fortified by discretion, and that prudence which had been so early instilled into her mind; but the regard in which her lover was held, the praises that were universally bestowed on him, his respectful conduct towards her, the proofs of genuine affection she perpetually received from him, all conspired to weaken her resolutions, and increase her regard for her noble lover.

The Duke perceived that her rigour was abated, and took all those

means love inspires to improve her present sentiments.

The display of his sufferings, which he painted to her in the most vivid colours, brought pity as an auxiliary to his cause, and he obtained at length an acknowledgment, that, were all obstacles removed, she would not reject his sollicitation to become his,

This was much to obtain, but not sufficient for a lover so ardent, and so little accustomed to opposition as the Duke.

He urged her to receive his hand in the presence of a few friends, whose
secrecy

secrecy he could depend on, till a favorable conjuncture empowered him to proclaim her as his wife; that he should glory in acknowledging a choice that would confer honor on the first potentate of the earth; but circumstanced as they were then, it was impossible to avow it without involving them in mutual ruin.

The attention with which the lovely Ann heard this proposal, encouraged the Duke to hope she would concur in it; but she quickly undeceived him:—she said, in acknowledging her preference for him, without the sanction of her parents approbation, to such an avowal, she had already

gone farther than was justifiable in her opinion; she had suffered her prudence to be subdued by her sense of his merits, and observations of his uneasiness on her account; she would give herself no farther cause of reproach; that in his present situation, were she to consent, and a discovery take place, it would draw on him the resentment of his whole family, and perhaps occasion his utter ruin; to be the cause of such misfortunes to him she most regarded, would make her the most wretched of women; from every consideration, therefore, she must reject the proposal:—if time wrought any change favorable to them, she would, with the approbation of
her

her friends, testify her regard, by giving him her hand ; but till then, he must cease to importune her—he would find her resolution was not to be shaken.

The manner in which she delivered these sentiments, convinced the Duke more than the words themselves, that she was serious in her intention ; he, notwithstanding, hoped that love, and his solicitations, would overpower her resolution ; but, firm to her purpose, she avoided giving him any opportunity of urging her on the subject, by contriving always to have somebody with her at those times when she might expect to see him.

will never do ought that can injure its object, and that had ambition stimulated Ann, she would not have rejected his proposal; but vexed at an opposition so unexpected, and so firm, he viewed every object in a wrong light, and mortified by the suggestions of a disturbed imagination, he resolved to banish from his mind, a mistress who appeared insensible to his sufferings.

His pride enabled him to pursue this resolution so far, as to mark no particular concern on his separation from Ann; nor did he seek any opportunity of speaking to her in private before his departure.

This

This was, perhaps, a favorable circumstance for them, since, had they separated with more tender sentiments towards each other, that moment of softened sensation might have betrayed them.

But what a period was it, for Ann to have sacrificed her wishes to prudence, and thereby to have alienated the object of her tenderest affection, to be thus punished for her adherence to a painful trial of rectitude—to feel all the bitterness of sorrow incident to these circumstances, and the absence of her lover, yet be obliged to wear an appearance of ease,—

What a trial! only such a mind as is

D 5 possessed

possessed by this incomparable woman could have supported it.

At the moment, however, that she was secretly lamenting the loss of her lover's affection, he was more sensible than ever to its power.

How often, my dear Lady More daunt, does it happen thus to us; at the time we are despairing, from the dark appearance of every object in which our happiness is interested, providence is disposing events in a manner so favorable to us, as to convert all our apparent misfortunes into real blessings.—Ought not this to inspire us with an implicit confidence
in

in the dispensations of the all-wise disposer of events?

An affection founded on real merit in its object, is rather strengthened, than weakened by absence.—The Duke felt the truth of this—the charms, the graces, accomplishments, and virtues of his lovely mistress, were ever present to his imagination—in vain did he try to banish her from his remembrance—her power over him increased daily.

Unable to support any longer the reserve he had proposed, he resolved to address her, and found some relief from the communication of his sufferings:

ferings: he described, in the most pathetic terms, the grief he had felt from the idea of not possessing her regard—the conflict he had sustained in endeavouring, from that supposition, to conquer his affection, and the misery of being banished from her sight. He conjured her to evince some commiseration for him—he would no longer urge her compliance with the subject of his former proposal; all he requested, was, an assurance that he still possessed that share of her regard she once acknowledged: would she but condescend to give him this assurance, he would rest satisfied with her determination respecting their future conduct.

When

When he had written this letter, he sought some person to whom he might confide in its delivery. He at length resolved on employing Lord Berkeley, who was greatly in his favor.

His Lordship readily undertook the office, hoping thereby to have an opportunity of accomplishing a plan he had much at heart.

Lord Berkeley was one of the most violent of the Chancellor's enemies; and supposing this attachment of the Duke to be of a very different nature from what it was, he pleased himself with the idea of promoting a scheme that

that would bring dishonor on one who was the object of his enmity.

He proceeded therefore with all possible speed to the court of the Princess, and soon found an opportunity of delivering the letter to Miss Hyde.

What a transition from grief to joy did it produce! to find a lover, whose loss she had deeply, though secretly deplored, more tenderly devoted to her than ever—to learn that he was disposed to agree to the terms her rectitude imposed, as a law on herself and him, filled her heart with the sweetest satisfaction;

some

some allay, however, it received, from considering who was the messenger employed on this occasion.

She had heard that Lord Berkeley was the enemy of her family, and therefore apprehended some treachery from him; she feared he would betray the correspondence to the Queen, which would separate them for ever; or find some means of turning the affair to her disadvantage; but, as her good sense pointed out to her the impropriety of evincing any mistrust of him, she wrote a short answer to the Duke, and sent it by him; resolving, however, to find a means of conveying her sentiments on the subject to his

Royal

Royal Highness, by some person whom she could confide in with greater security.

To many, it would have been a difficult matter to find such a person, since it was greatly the interest of those who should be employed in such an affair to betray it ; but Miss Hyde had no such difficulty to apprehend—there were many so devoted to her, as to sacrifice their interest to the satisfaction of serving her ; never were dependents more attached than her's. Without descending from that dignity which commands respect, she was so affable, and took such pains to render a condition, hard enough
in

in itself, comfortable to them, that there was not one who had ever been in her service, but would have hazarded every thing to oblige her.

Her own woman had been brought up in the Chancellor's family; Lady Clarendon had placed her with Miss Hyde, when she left her with the Princess. She was so much attached to her mistress; was so prudent, and possessed so much good sense, that the fair Ann resolved to disclose her situation to her; she was strengthened in this resolution, by considering, that she should hereby have a witness of her conduct; on whose testimony her mother, from her long experience of her

her strict integrity, could rely.—To her, therefore, Miss Hyde, on this occasion, had recourse.

Harris, charmed with the idea of seeing her beloved mistress placed in a station so exalted, and of which she thought her so deserving, was inclined to do every thing that was in her power to promote the interests of the lovers.

As her birth was above the common line, and her understanding and rectitude had gained her the esteem of Lady Clarendon, she had found great consolation in her attachment during her troubles.

Deprived

Deprived of all society, it was a comfort to have one faithful dependent, to whom she could confide her griefs,

This confidence having opened all the history of the family to Harris, she was apprized of the enmity of Lord Berkeley, and therefore agreed with her mistress, in thinking he was not to be trusted.

It happened that she had a near relation in the court of the Princess, whom she had greatly served : assured of his gratitude, and that she might rely on him, she proposed him as the messenger between his Royal Highness and her mistress.

Accord-

Accordingly he was sent for, and a letter given him, with the instructions necessary for conducting a commission of such consequence.

IN her first letter to the Duke, she only told him, that circumstances of a peculiar nature, prevented her replying so fully as she could wish; that he should hear from her again soon; in the mean time, she requested him not to write; and conjured him, as he valued her happiness, not to make any body acquainted with their attachment.

This

"This letter greatly perplexed the Duke; he resolved, however, to comply with the commands of his fair mistress, notwithstanding his impatience to learn the cause of her conduct.

He did not wait long for this explanation; the faithful messenger delivered the welcome packet to his hands.

From it, he learned that Ann was not insensible to his sufferings; she lamented that fate had opposed affection, with obstacles so insuperable as the claims of rectitude and duty — gave him the assurance he so ardently

dently desired, of his still possessing the first place in her esteem, and repeated her promise of being his, if they should ever be more favorably circumstanced than at present.

She then told him, that for reasons she wished him not to enquire into, she earnestly besought him to send no more confidential letters by Lord Berkeley, or to entrust him with their attachment; that the person who would deliver that letter to him, was one whom she could rely upon; if, therefore, the Duke wished to reply to her letter, he might be sure his answer would be conveyed safe to her; but, as she observed, it might
create

create suspicion in Lord Berkeley, were he deprived all at once of this commission, and lead him to observe them more watchfully, she was of opinion it would be adviseable to send one or two more letters by him, and then let drop some expression as if he thought no more of her, and if even he spoke with negligence of her, she thought it would tend to prevent a suspicion she greatly feared.

His Highness was much pleased with this letter; and though he saw not the grounds for Miss Hyde's apprehensions respecting Lord Berkeley, had too much deference for her opinion, and was too anxious to please her,

her, not to comply minutely with her request.

He assured her of this in his reply, and expressed the satisfaction her condescension had given him, earnestly intreating her to continue a correspondence that was his only source of comfort, and promising to be entirely guided by her instructions in every circumstance:—to this was added, all that the tenderest affection could inspire.

This letter was soon followed by another, sent by Lord Berkeley, for the Duke had too much pleasure in addressing her, not to employ the occasion.

casion as speedily as possible; and though, in consequence of their agreement, the contents of the letter bore no relation to the subject his heart was full of, it yet gave him satisfaction to write it.

This plan was as happy in its effect, as judicious in its arrangement; Lord Berkeley being completely deceived by it.

He enjoyed the idea that the Duke had an affair of gallantry with the daughter of the man he hated, which would be a source of such grief and dishonor to him; and resolved, at a favorable period, to blazon forth the

circumstances with all the additions malice could bestow.

He saw, ere long, with pleasure, the Duke's apparent change towards her, of whom he had spoken with such rapture; and his total silence at length on the subject, persuaded him that the lovely Ann was no longer mistress of his heart.

For some time, the Duke remained satisfied with a correspondence punctually observed between him and Miss Hyde; but, as the display of her understanding, her wit, and the various charms of her sweet mind continually augmented his passion, he began at length

length to evince the strongest impatience to see her again.

She strenuously opposed this, but the eloquence of love overpowered her objections.

He made a specious pretext for returning to the court of Orange, and again was blessed by beholding his lovely mistress, who appeared more charming, more amiable than ever. The object of universal admiration and esteem; the praise of Ann was heard from every tongue. She seemed so unconscious of her own superior merit, so ready to acknowledge it in others, so solicitous to do all that

was in her power to oblige and serve, that even envy and jealousy were conquered by her sweetness.

How difficult a matter was it for the Duke, who felt her worth so much more than any body else, to refrain from expressing his sentiments, and to use the language of indifference, while his heart glowed with the enthusiasm of affection so strong and well-founded.

For some time, however, prudence obtained the victory, and he gave no cause for suspecting his sentiments; but a circumstance happened, that overpowered all his resolution, and betrayed his secret to many, whom he could have wished to conceal it from.

A YOUNG

A YOUNG nobleman, greatly esteemed by the Princess Royal, conceived a passion for Miss Hyde; as he was unexceptionable in every respect, her Royal Highness was delighted with the idea of her favorite's having an establishment so advantageous, and promised the young Lord her interest.

As a circumstance of this nature is soon circulated at court, it came to the knowledge of the Duke, who was in despair at the intelligence.—

E. 3

Jealousy.

Jealousy, apprehension, doubt, and a thousand miserable sensations possessed his mind.

He sought an opportunity of speaking to Miss Hyde, or to Harris, whom he believed faithful to his interest, but in vain, for neither of them, as fortune would have it, were in the way.

He then proceeded to the Princess, in hopes to learn something on the subject from her,—Occupied with the idea, she communicated the matter to him, little thinking she was wounding him to the soul, while she lavished commendations on his rival—dwelt on the advantages such an union

union would produce to Miss Hyde, and expressed her ardent wishes for its accomplishment.

Finding, however, the Duke made no reply to her observations, she proceeded to enquire his opinion; but, struck by the expression of amazement and concern in his countenance, she looked at him for some time in silent astonishment.

His Royal Highness at length perceived it, and aware of the imminent danger he was in of a discovery, roused all his resolutions, and pleading absence of mind, asked, in a careless way, if she thought Miss Hyde

was disposed to give a favorable ear to the addresses of this lover.

Her Royal Highness said, she had just been speaking to her on the subject; that she was, at first, surprised and confused at the communication, but from her subsequent conduct, she thought her lover had no cause for despair.

Alarmed, and enraged at this intelligence, the Duke found it impossible to suppress his feelings any longer; pretending, therefore, to be taken ill, he quitted the Princess, and went to his own apartment, to give free scope to the powerful emotions of his heart.

He

He immediately set down to write to his mistress, and viewing every object through the medium of that jealousy which wholly possessed him, reproached her for her conduct—accused her of cruelly deceiving him with false hopes, and ended, by relating the conversation he had just held with the Princess.

Ann, judging the excess of his love and affliction from the whole tenor of his letter, would not aggravate his sufferings, by resenting his suspicions; she sought rather to alleviate them, by convincing him gently of his error.

She therefore informed him, that the suggestions of prudence, when the first surprize at the Princess's intelligence was over, had influenced her not to mark her strong aversion to the proposal ; for as it was not supposed she could have any reasonable objection to it, her immediately opposing it with earnestness, might create suspicion; this was her motive; she should excuse the present doubts of her fidelity and integrity, that his Royal Highness had expressed, in consideration of the pain she perceived he suffered from them; but she hoped he would not in future evince a want of confidence so injurious to her. That he might rest
assured

assured she never would deceive him, it was necessary they should take their measures prudently:—would he be guided by her, and trust her implicitly, she doubted not, unfavorable as circumstances appeared, to avoid the present blow that threatened them, without a discovery of their sentiments.

The Duke, relieved by this letter, assured her he would not only rely implicitly on her; but be guided entirely by her advice; making every concession that was due, for his unreasonable suspicion, and acknowledging how little he merited her gentle forbearance.

He

He begged, however, she would grant him half an hour's audience, in the presence of Harris, that they might enter more fully on the subject, and arrange their plan in a clearer manner than could be done by letter.

To this Ann, with some reluctance, consented.

When they met, he repeated his regret for having intimated any doubt, and assured her he was resolved to abide entirely by her directions.

She then told him she thought it would be better that she should not,
at

at first, exprefs her great repugnance to the propofed match—that fome reasonable caufe, ſhe hoped would occur; and that if it did not, any objection ſhe might hereafter make would not be ſo liable to ſuſpicion, as ſhould ſhe now, without any apparent reaſon, ſet herſelf to oppoſe it violently :—that, as in conſequence of this plan, in which ſhe flattered herſelf he would acquieſce, it would be neceſſary for her to ſometimes give ear to the converſation of her new lover, ſhe hoped the Duke would refrain his jealousy, that her ſcheme might not be counteracted.

His Royal Highneſs having ſo lately promiſed ſubmiſſion, could not
oppoſe

oppose his mistress's proposal, but it was evident to her that he approved not this plan; and he ventured to hint, that the coincidence with his former request, would be the best means of precluding all doubts and jealousy, and securing their happiness.

Observing, however, that this hint was not favorably received, he did not urge it further; but repeated his resolution to conquer his jealous apprehensions, and allow her to entertain his rival without giving way to any alarm.

YOU

YOU, my dear Lady Mordaunt, are too well acquainted with human nature, to wonder that a lover should not long preserve a resolution of this nature:—in fine, a week had not passed ere the Duke's gave way.

One evening that the Princess was with a few of her attendants in her apartments, Miss Hyde was standing near a window; her new lover was in conversation with her; he had taken her hand, and she smiled on him at the moment the Duke entered.

His

His eyes were immediately directed towards Ann;—rage and jealousy sparkled in them.—She blushed.

Imputing this to conscious guilt, his feelings became too violent for suppression; he struck his hand on his forehead, exclaiming, in a voice scarcely articulate, “Gracious Heaven, I am then deceived!” and darting a look of the keenest resentment at Ann, quitted the room.

Universal astonishment took place, and every eye was turned towards Miss Hyde, who, overwhelmed with the various sensations that filled her bosom

bosom, could scarcely breathe;—the blush, which had recently suffused her countenance, yielded to a death-like paleness, and but for the support of the place against which she rested, she must have sunk.

Silence, for a considerable time, prevailed; it was at length interrupted by the Princes, who had regarded Ann, during the above period, with a look of mingled astonishment, curiosity and disturbance.

Her Royal Highness, now turning to a lady near her, said she, apprehended her brother was taken ill—she would go herself to enquire, but
should

should not require any attendance. She then arose and quitted the apartment.

Ann, cruelly agitated by the painful emotions of her mind, gladly embraced the earliest opportunity of retiring, to give free scope to her feelings, and consult with her faithful Harris what steps to take in the present important and unhappy conjuncture.

Impatient to satisfy the doubts that now arose in her mind, the Princess immediately proceeded to the apartments of her brother, resolving to penetrate into his feelings before the
moment

moment of recollection should arrive to dictate their suppression.

The Duke had, however, fortunately given orders, that if he was enquired for, his attendants should say he was much indisposed and retired to rest.

Her Royal Highness therefore could not see him; but willing to be satisfied whether his illness was real or pretended, she, next morning, sent her own physician to him.

She recollected now many little circumstances, which had before passed off without attention, that led her to
think

think the Duke entertained a passion for Miss Hyde.

She called to mind his surprize, agitation, and abrupt departure, when she mentioned the new lover of Ann, and her hopes for his success; every circumstance that occurred, now confirmed her more strongly in her opinion, and she resolved carefully to observe his conduct and Miss Hyde's, and to try to discover, through the medium of some of those who were most in his confidence, whether any correspondence was carried on between them.

In the mean time, the lovers were a prey to the most cruel uneasiness.

The

The heart of the Duke was pierced by the sharp dart of jealousy, while Ann's apprehension of the consequence of his rashness, and concern for his suspicion, occasioned her the most painful disquietude.

She was, however, too wise to give herself up wholly to a fruitless grief, when it was so necessary to adopt some plan to counteract the effect of the mischief.

Many schemes suggested themselves to her, but they could not be effected without the concurrence of the Duke; and as her pride would not allow her to apply to him, she rejected them;

them; all she could determine for the present was, to appear as little concerned as possible, and to guard her feelings so watchfully as to preclude their betraying her, should any event happen that would be likely to bring them to a trial.

It was some time before the Duke's jealousy and anger would allow him reason any room for exercises: those violent emotions engrossing his whole soul; but when he became a little cooler, he began to apprehend he might be wrong, and to consider the consequences if he should: they were greatly to be dreaded, but as no misfortune could be so insupportable to him as not possessing the affections of the

the

the lovely object of his regard, he suffered, hoping by degrees to tame the place of despair in his mind, and to persuade him he had been too hasty in his conduct.

It is so natural to encourage the belief of what we wish, that it is not surprizing the Duke should, on this occasion, indulge the idea that now arose in his mind, of the possibility of his being mistaken.

But the smiles of Ann, her hand being in that of her lover's, would present themselves, and thus the conflict of passion continued to torment him without respite.

Resolved

Resolved, at length, to put an end to that insupportable state, he next morning wrote to Ann. The letter was a strong evidence of the situation of his mind; he, in one part, reproached her perfidy; in another required an explanation of the scene he had witnessed, desired her at one moment to be sincere, at another complained of her want of sincerity; he painted the anguish of his sufferings, then talked of calmly yielding her to his rival, if she preferred him, and ended a letter of many sheets, by requiring at length an avowal of her genuine sentiments, as they were, he said, to be the rule of his future conduct; that he was very ill, and should make that a reason for not receiving
any

any body, till her answer determined him what plan to pursue.

He dispatched this by a faithful messenger to Mrs. Harris, who gave it her mistress.

Ann was too sincerely attached, not to receive sensible pleasure from this testimony of her lover's affections; and distressed as she was at the idea of the painful consequences of his rashness, could not but smile at the inconsistency so strongly marked in the letter; but she had observed human nature too accurately, to fail of knowing that inconsistency was one of its principal characteristics, and could not therefore be surprized, that it

F should

should be called forth by the means of one of our strongest passions.

Besides the satisfaction she derived from seeing herself the object of an affection so fervent, she was glad to be empowered, through the medium of this intercourse, to concert some plan with her lover, to counteract the evil they had occasion to dread. But it was a delicate point how to reply to his letter. It was necessary to support her dignity, which had been wounded by his conduct, and yet the nature of their situation claimed the immediate adoption of some plan; should she prescribe any rule of conduct, would imply a reconciliation too easy to satisfy him.

After

After much deliberation, she concluded it was best to send Harris, who could explain matters fully, and propose a plan as her own formation. Ann knew she could trust to her; that she would represent her as having a proper sense of the indignity offered her, and not give the Duke room to suppose she was disposed to wave any of the claims which conscientious propriety of conduct gives. A few lines informed him, that Harris would attend him in disguise, at the close of the evening, and convey her mistress's sentiments on the subject of his Royal Highness's letter.

The Duke knew not what to acquire from this, whether it portended

good or evil to him; he waited therefore impatiently for the evening; and received Harris with a joy that would have led any one present to believe she herself was the object of his affections. She proceeded to tell him that her mistress, in vindication of her own sincerity, had thought proper to explain to his Royal Highness the circumstance which had given occasion to his injurious suspicions and consequent conduct.

The object of his jealousy had been relating an adventure to her that had recently happened, and which his Highness had probably heard of, as it was much the subject of conversation.

tion. That in describing a ridiculous scene, he had, in imitation of the person, taken her hand, and the absurdity of the speech that accompanied this action, had occasioned a smile from her. If his Royal Highness had heard the affair, he would know the circumstances that were alluded to by her, which would prove how naturally the incident took rise, which had exasperated him so much; that he must regard this justification, however, as arising from a consideration of what was due to herself, not to him. For as she had candidly avowed her preference to himself, and prepared him by shewing the necessity of it, for her apparent attention to his rival, it was

such an offence to her, his giving so flagrant a proof of his ill opinion, as she could not excuse.

The adventure alluded to, occurred immediately to the Duke; he recollected, that the circumstances of it would account for the action of his rival, and felt the deepest confusion and concern at the effect of his impetuosity.

He besought Harris's intercession with her lovely mistress for forgiveness; which, then pitying his concern, promised. She then enquired if the Princess had not been to visit him the preceding evening, intimating her apprehensions that his conduct had
excited

excited suspicions of his attachment in her mind; and how requisite it would be, should this really be the case, to devise some plan to prevent the consequence so unfavourable to his wishes.

The Duke, who till now had scarcely thought of any part of the event, but that which excited his jealousy, now recollected the dangers it had created; and consulted with Harris, in case he should be so happy to obtain her mistress's pardon, what plan they should adopt to extricate them from the snare that would be spread on every side.

He said the Princess had been at his door, but he had prevented her entrance, by saying he was retired to rest, indisposed; that he had seen her Physician in the morning, who had found him, in fact, in a state that would corroborate his plea of illness; therefore he hoped he should be able still to destroy the suspicion that was awakened.

His Royal Highness then enquired of Harris, if she knew what had passed after his departure the preceding day?

She related all that had been communicated to her by her mistress on the subject.

Sensible

Sensible how difficult it would be to elude a penetration so acute as that of the Princess Royal, and how necessary to take measures immediately, he was plunged into the most perplexing reverie. A plan, at length, suggested itself as a present resource, which was still to confine himself under the pretence of indisposition, as by this means he should avoid the observations of his sister, and gain time, in case a reconciliation took place between him and the fair Ann.

To form such a plan as their circumstances required, he then conjured Harris, with an earnestness that evinced how intirely his happi-

ness depended on it, to intercede for his pardon; to tell her mistress he was so conscious of the little claim he had to her indulgence, that he would not presume to address her himself, but if she would, in pity to his severe sufferings, condescend once more to receive him into favor, his whole life should be devoted to evince his gratitude; that he should not know one moment's comfort till he heard again from her, since her resentment of his conduct was aggravated in its painful effect on him, by the consideration of his having deserved it, and of the dangerous consequences it had produced. He implored her to let Harris come again the following day.

Harris

Harris promised her interest with his mistress, and proceeded to acquaint her with all that had passed.

Love and anger are too uncongenial to dwell long together. The fair Ann was easily inclined to admit the apology of her lover, and to comply with his rest; but she did it in a manner that proved she knew what was due to her own character.

The Duke believed he owed much to the intercession of Harris, as was indeed the case, for her lively representation of the grief and repentance of the Duke, contributed greatly to dispose Ann to treat him with less severity.

In

In the succeeding interview with Harris, he was encouraged to hope he might again be reinstated in his mistress's favor: he, therefore, advised with her what steps he might take to secure them from suspicion in future.

She told him she thought, from a hint Miss Hyde dropt, she would propose his quitting the court, at least for some time. This, he said, he could not do; absence would be so insupportable that he could not endure life on the condition. There was, indeed, one consideration which would influence him to consent, that of his mistress's agreeing to an union with him previous to his departure; that
then,

then, secure of her not being torn from him, he could leave her till time should, by producing some favorable change, empower him to acknowledge his union.

He was charmed to find that Harris seemed to give a favorable ear to this proposal. He urged her to employ her interest with her mistress, to induce her to comply with his wishes on the subject.

She promised him all the assistance in her power, and left him more composed in his feelings than he had been for some time.

Harris

Having had information with application
 to the Duke of York, that, in the
 present situation of affairs, she thought
 it the best means of securing her
 safety, and removing her
 from a situation of perilousness as that
 in which she then was.

In the present conjuncture various
 circumstances might arise from abroad
 or at home, to involve her beloved
 country in distress; from which, as
 the wife of the Duke of York, she
 would be exempt; and, therefore,
 though she deeply lamented that the
 step should be taken without the
 concurrence of the Chancellor, and
 Lady Clarendon, she thought the cir-
 cumstances.

cumstances attending it would be an extenuation of the offence, and hence resolved to employ her influence to dispose Ann to consent to the Duke's proposal.

While this was in agitation on the part of the lovers, the Princess was in a state of the most anxious suspense. Her Physician having in reality found, on visiting the Duke, that he had a great deal of feverish heat upon him, which had been produced by the anxiety of his mind, and a restless night; she knew not what to think, but, in pursuance of her determination, resolved to sound his friends, till his recovery should enable her,
by

by strictly watching his conduct, to form a decisive judgment herself.

She, therefore, sent to Sir Charles Berkeley, who was Captain of his Guards, and nephew to the above-mentioned Lord Berkeley, then abroad: she knew him to be in great favor with the Duke; for being a pleasant lively man, and wearing a specious appearance in the presence of his Highness, he had deceived him as to his real character, which was very indifferent, he being regarded by all persons of discernment and virtue, as a dissolute and unprincipled young man. Sir Charles was the best tool the Princess could have employed on
this

this occasion, as he was no less an enemy to the Hyde family than his uncle, and would therefore make use of every means to prevent an union which would so greatly exalt them.

TO those who have not studied mankind, it will appear strange, perhaps, that the Princess, who was a woman of superior understanding, of an amiable character, and who had evinced so much regard for Miss Hyde, as to give her the first place in her favor, should shew such alarm

at

at the idea of her brother's attachment, to one whom she considered so deserving her esteem, and that she should have recourse to such means to circumvent it.

But those who have read the human heart with attention, will trace the sources of the contradictions in our character and conduct, to the passions which we allow to rule us. We can, while uninterested ourselves, in any particular event, judge of its propriety, and think we should act up to what it dictates; but when a strong impulse biasses our mind, we consult only our inclination, and thus are betrayed into those inconsistencies which

which bring the strongest understanding to a level with the weakest, and make the most amiable characters sometimes appear to act unworthily.

The Princess had the highest opinion of Miss Hyde—knew she possessed every quality of head and heart that was calculated to promote the happiness of her brother; but her ambition represented that such an alliance would be a degradation, whereas her family might be aggrandized by the Duke's marriage; she therefore listened only to the suggestions of her pride, and regardless of her brother's happiness, since it opposed her wishes, resolved to employ every effort

effort to counteract his intentions, should they prove to be what she feared.

Too much interested in carrying this favorite point, to attend properly to the means, she had recourse to the assistance of a man whom she thought not very favorably of.

When Sir Charles attended the Princess, she, after some general conversation, questioned him respecting his sentiments of the circumstance that had happened a few evenings before, and whether he knew of any attachment the Duke had, without giving him to understand what her own opinion was.

He,

He, however, knew her prevailing passion too well not to be satisfied of its tendency; and glad to ingratiate himself with her, proceeded to inform her what was the fruit of his observation.

He said, though he had some reason to think the Duke entertained a passion for Miss Hyde, that he was satisfied it was not of a nature to give her Royal Highness any solid ground of uneasiness; what tended most, of many other observations he had made, to convince him the Duke had no serious intention towards her, were these, that he was so far from cultivating the friendship of her father,
which

which it would be natural for him to do, had he thoughts of an alliance with his family; that he, on the contrary, shewed him every mark of disfavor; and besides, he (Sir Charles) was sure, that had the Duke entertained any such intention, he would not have concealed it from him, as he was so happy as to be more in his Royal Highness's confidence than any other person.

The Princess was too much pleased to conceal her satisfaction, but at the same time she very strongly reprobated the idea of the Duke's forming any design to win the affections, or injure either the fame or happiness of any body under her protection, adding, she should take care to prevent
his

his having any opportunity of practising such a plan in regard to Miss Hyde: she then told Sir Charles it would oblige her, if he would observe her brother's conduct on this subject, and inform her of the result; she intreated him also to conceal from the Duke the conversation that had passed between them.

As it was in her power to do him essential service, she thought this motive would influence him to be faithful to her.

He made all the protestations she could desire, of his services and secrecy, and took his leave.

As

As promises, however sacred, are no ties to unprincipled people, particularly when they think it is more their interest to break, than to observe them—he resolved immediately to communicate all that had passed to the Duke.

By a few lines, he informed his Royal Highness of his having something of moment to impart. He was therefore admitted, and related, in his own manner, all that had been said by the Princess.

The Duke could not conceal his surprise and embarrassment at this communication; he would have been
glad

glad to reveal all his thoughts, perplexities, and intentions to his favorite, but recollecting the strong injunctions of Ann to the contrary, refrained from it; he, therefore, desired Sir Charles would assure her Royal Highness there was nothing to apprehend from him, on account of Miss Hyde, and as a female confessor was an unusual thing, he should certainly not acknowledge the object of his gallantry to her.

He said it was very irksome to him, to be made perpetually the subject of observation and curiosity, and begged Sir Charles to do all in his power to put a stop to the present course of it; adding, that as a lady's

G

fame

fame was in question, he was particularly solicitous the matter should be put a stop to.

Sir Charles had observed the Duke's embarrassment, and was convinced there were good grounds for the suspicions of his attachment to Miss Hyde, but he conceived it was a mere affair of gallantry, which his Royal Highness was so anxious to keep from his sister; because she would have been incensed at his chusing one of her attendants, and so great a favorite for its object; and, at the same time, was zealous for the preservation of the lady's reputation.

Affecting

Affecting, however, to be perfectly satisfied with the Duke's assertion, he promised to dissipate the Princess's apprehensions, and to draw the attention of the court to some other object; which last, he conceived no difficult matter, as the generality of its attendants were ever in search of novelty to amuse them, and counteract the effect of that languor incident to a life of indolence.

To this end he went to the Princess, who played the same part with him that he had acted towards the Duke, pretending to give credit to what, however, she was not convinced of.

This Sir Charles perceived, and told her a scheme had occurred to him, which he was sure would bring the matter to light; and if there were any just grounds to fear a serious attachment, would inevitably preclude its having an issue that would prove disgraceful to the Royal Family;— he said he had not yet perfectly digested the plan, therefore would beg her excuse for not communicating it at present.

The Princess, who knew his head was to be depended on, though his heart might not, testified her approbation of what he said, and, after little more discourse on the subject, dismissed him.

When

When Harris next attended the Duke, he communicated to her what had passed between him and Sir Charles Berkeley, and took occasion hence to urge, in the strongest terms, the necessity there was for her mistress's compliance with his plan; that spies would now be placed around them on every side; the Princess would also be so vigilant, and keep Miss Hyde so constantly in her view, that it would be impossible to elude observation; and as death would be less insupportable to him than a separation from her, without her being secured to him, he saw no other means of extricating them from the dangers

which surrounded them on every side.

He assured Harris, that if her mistress would consent, he would retire in a few days from Court, and every future act of his should be guided by her directions.

Harris, in reply, told him, she had made use of so many arguments in favor of his Royal Highness's proposal, that she thought she had disposed her mistress to listen more favorably to it; and she really hoped, from the communication she should now make, and the reflection and arguments it would create in his favor, that

that her mistress would be brought to consent; she would inform his Royal Highness the succeeding day, but as it behaved them now to be more cautious than ever in the mode of communication, she thought he had better appoint some other place, and a different hour for their meeting.

This appeared so necessary to the Duke, that he immediately adopted the plan, and naming a place of safety, and a time when few persons would be abroad, he settled that point—he then expressed the happiness Harris had given him, by encouraging him to hope her lovely mistress seemed in-

clined to consent to the completion of his wishes, and assured her of his eternal gratitude, should she succeed in determining the point in his favour.

When Harris related what had passed to her mistress, a thousand painful and perplexing ideas rushed into the mind of the lovely Ann. She felt the justness of all the Duke's representations, and her heart was a powerful advocate in his favor; but to consent to a breach of that duty she owed the best of parents was insupportable; yet, if she did not, she must lose her lover.

Should

Should they now separate, there was little hope of their re-union. This thought distracted her.

Undecided and wretched she knew not how to act; misery must be the consequence, which ever way she took. To the attendant friend of her youth she applied for advice on this trying occasion; finding it impossible to determine, when her mind was so agitated, yet, seeing so strongly the necessity of an immediate decision, Harris made a clear statement of the case, and then said there was one circumstance which she thought of so much consequence, that it ought to determine the point: she was, in-

deed, sure, when Miss Hyde considered it, it would have that effect, since it included, what was most dear to her on earth, her fame.

That the matter had been too much talked of now, not to be made public, and the motive of the Berkeleys would represent it in such a manner, as to incline people to think the worst: by this means she would be dishonored, her parents rendered miserable, and their enemies enjoy a triumph the most cruel over them.

That as so many great evils were in one scale, and only one, though that of considerable magnitude, in the other

other, she thought her mistress ought not to hesitate, but consent to a step which so many considerations made adviseable, and which time, and its being irremediable, would reconcile all parties to.

These arguments obtained so much influence in the mind of Miss Hyde, that they, at length, overpowered her objections to the step: with a trembling hand she marked her acquiescence to the Duke, leaving to him the arrangement of the business, and only requiring that, except the two persons already apprized of the matter, and one friend she would bring,

no

no other persons might be present at the solemnization of the nuptials.

This friend, whom she was inclined to trust, was one to whom she had been attached before she entered the service of the Princess; they had become acquainted when her Royal Highness saw her at Breeda.

Ann was induced to entrust her on this occasion, because her high rank and character would give a sanction to her conduct, and she was too well acquainted with her sentiments to apprehend her refusal, or her betraying the matter. She had every reason hereafter to rejoice in this step.

The

The Duke was overwhelmed with joy when he learned Ann's determination in his favor. He lost no time in the preparations requisite for the occasion, fearing his mistress might repent her promise, knowing so well as he did the strong sense she had of her duty.

As secrecy was so absolutely necessary, and the Princess's attention was so wholly employed in observing every look, word and action of Miss Hyde, it was impossible to appoint any hour of the day to perform the ceremony--- it was therefore to be celebrated at midnight.

A Chap-

A Chaplain of the Duke was to unite them, whose secrecy was ensured, and the following week fixed for the celebration.

The intermediate space was passed very uneasily by both parties. Ann's conflict between her duty, affection, hopes and fears, still making her very wretched; while the Duke's impatience and apprehension of some intervening misfortune precluded his yielding to the satisfaction of thinking, he was so near an union with the most lovely and amiable of all human beings. They derived, however, some consolation from pouring out the effusion of their hearts to each other

other, for they found means, by the assistance of their confidants, to elude the vigilant watchfulness of their spies, and obtain more than one interview unsuspected.

A FORTUNATE event for the lovers now took place—letters arrived from England, with information of the King's restoration. They required the Duke's attendance in England as soon as possible. This circumstance, by giving a cause for his departure, precluded the conjectures that would otherwise have attended his quitting the
the

the Court at that particular time—and by giving a new fund of conversation, drew off the attention of those, who, having no resources within themselves, employ their time in observing, commenting, and often misrepresenting the actions of others.

His Royal Highness took advantage of his pretended indisposition to delay his journey for a few days, but as in that time the due preparations were making for it, all suspicions were called of the important event that was to take place in the interim.

The projected plan was so happily executed, that not the least idea of it was

was conceived.—You will readily imagine the agitation of the lovely Ann, at an act on which hung all the future happiness of her life, which was performed without the sanction of those whose rights she acknowledged, and deeply regretted her violating.

This, the first, and, indeed, only breach of her duty, was bitterly deplored by her, and severely punished; but, circumstanced as she was, who will not make allowance for this one error?

Two lines of a favorite poet occur on this occasion, and as you may be inclined to cherish them as applicable

cable as I do, I will transcribe them:

“ Mais à l'humanité, si parfait qu'on fut
Toujours par quelque foible ou poya la tribut.”

You, I am sure, my dear Lady Mordaunt, will, while you lament, not too severely condemn what had so much to extenuate it. A young and amiable Prince, on the one hand, soliciting, with all the energy love inspires; a friend on the other, whom she looked up to as a second parent, persuading her, that fame now, as well as happiness, depended on the step, and her own heart favoring the cause. Who will not think her conduct palliated by these considerations, and to those who would censure it severely,

on

on account of the influence of example in such a character? It may be recommended to reflection, that, as nobody can presume they have a right to make her failure their example, without copying her virtues, few, indeed, I may say none, will be injured by this her single deviation.

A WEEK after the ceremony had passed, the Duke tore himself from his lovely bride, and set forward for England, not without the hope, however, that this favorable turn of affairs would be the means of restoring her to him soon, and perhaps of producing

ducing some favorable occasion for serving his marriage, and obtaining the King, his brother's, approbation of it.

These hopes, which he communicated to her, whose cares, joys, and interests, were now inseparable from his own, contributed much to alleviate the anguish of separation.

The Princess was on this occasion not sorry to see her brother depart; for though all her vigilance had not been able to discover any confirmation of her apprehensions, they had been too effectually roused to be very soon lulled; and the countenance of
Ann

Ann, on the Duke's departure, in spite of all her endeavours to give it an appearance of unconcern, betrayed, to a penetrating observer, marks of the feelings most predominant in her heart.

The Princess had urged her often in favor of the young Nobleman. Ann's reply could not but satisfy her. She said it was necessary to consider well the character of the man on whom the future happiness of her life must depend. She would not, therefore, decide precipitately: time and observation were required to enable her to judge, whether he possessed those qualities which were
calculated

calculated to promote their mutual felicity?

Happily for her, the change of affairs obliged her lover to go over to England, and she, for the present, was relieved from this source of uneasiness.

Another lover, however, or one who affected to be so, now started up to disturb the repose of Ann, no other than Sir Charles Berkeley.

The Duke, having left some affairs unsettled, had desired him to remain till they were completed; and he devoted all his leisure to persuade
Ann,

Ann, that she had inspired him with the tenderest and most ardent passion.

Surprized and provoked at this unexpected conduct, she knew not whether she should not acquaint the Duke; but recollecting the dangerous consequence of awakening his jealousy, and apprehensive of the effects of his resentment, should it be raised against Sir Charles, she concluded it would be better to endure the present evil, than, by endeavouring to prevent it, invite a greater.

You will, perhaps, be equally surprized with herself, at this step of
Sir

Sir Charles's, for it will naturally occur, that as Miss Hyde was the supposed favorite of his master, he would be afraid of reciting his resentment, and ruining himself thereby.

But this artful politician had so deeply considered the scheme in view, and taken his measures so well, that all were deceived by it.

When the Duke was informing him of the business he wished him to perform, previous to his embarkation, Sir Charles said, (with a smile) there is one commission your Royal Highness has forgot, the attention due to a certain young Lady: but I
will

will not omit them, assured that, though not specified, they are what will be most acceptable to you.

The Duke was for a moment startled, fearing his secret was betrayed; but recollecting the impossibility of this, he judged that Sir Charles now doubted his former assurances on the subject, and wished to penetrate his thoughts.

He replied, with the same air, that as a gallant man, he was bound to pay attention to every woman, and it was a service that rewarded itself, therefore he should not claim any merit from it in respect to him.

his Royal Highness had been engaged in some frolic, which had hurt him in the estimation of many people, though they were certainly excusable, on account of his youth and lively disposition.

She also knew Sir Charles was an inveterate enemy to her family; a more unwelcome lover, therefore, could not have presented himself.

She did not believe he was really attached to her, and therefore concluded he had some plan baneful in its intention—she could not decide what it was, but, from all circumstances judged, it tended to discover
whether

whether there was any attachment between the Duke and her.

Impressed with so contemptible an opinion of him, it was difficult for Miss Hyde to conceal her sentiments; however, she contented herself with treating him in the coldest and most unreserved manner, hoping, that as he must necessarily go to England, ere long she should be released from his addresses.

He, in the mean while, not at all discouraged by the ill reception he met, hovered perpetually round the charming object of his attentions.

This was a new source of conversation and conjecture of the Court of the Princess, and was, of course, conveyed to England.

Lord Berkeley took every occasion to mention the report to his Royal Highness, insinuating that his nephew found no cause to complain of Miss Hyde's cruelty.

But it produced not the effect he intended; the Duke always evincing the utmost unconcern when the subject was started. The recent proof he had received of the affection of his lovely mistress, precluding his admittance of any doubt respecting her,
and

and all his concern now was engrossed, by the consideration of engaging his brother's approbation of his choice, and consent to his avowing his marriage.

One circumstance contributed to encourage his hopes. This was the great favor the Chancellor was in with the King: he was known to have more influence and credit with his Majesty, than any body else; nor could any other person boast, on any account, so great a claim to it. His loyalty had superseded every consideration of interest or happiness; he had quitted his native country; relinquished his fortune, and left a

H 4 beloved

beloved wife and family, to follow the fortunes of his master, at a time when it seemed impossible that he should reap any other fruit than perpetual banishment and utter ruin.

On the Chancellor's favor with the King; on the merit of his daughter, which was the theme of universal praise; and on his brotherly affection, did the Duke build his hopes; and he sought to strengthen these aids, by still conciliating the regard of his brother, nor was this ineffectual.

The King had ever loved the Duke most affectionately, his present
conduct

conduct still more endeared him. He found him extremely improved in his manners and conduct, and though it did not then assure that this was produced by any particular cause, he remarked the effect with very great satisfaction.

Thus every thing seemed to favor the Duke's wishes, and a circumstance soon happened that inclined him to believe fortune was disposed to grant all his wishes.

This circumstance was the intelligence, that the Chancellor proposed to send for his daughter over. Every other business that claimed attention

H 5 from

from him being now happily arranged, and himself and family quietly settled, he resolved to enjoy, once more, the happiness of his favorite child's society.

In consequence of this resolution, which met the strongest support from Lady Clarendon, they wrote to the Princess of Orange, expressing their gratitude in the fullest manner, for her condescending kindness to them and their child; and hoping she would now consent to wave her claim to her service, in favor of parents so affectionately attached, who were now empowered to provide for her according

according to their wishes, and could no longer bear her absence.

To Ann they wrote their wish, that she should immediately prepare for her return to them; adding, all that tenderness towards such a child dictated.

What a happy summons for her! and how opportune did the circumstances, in which she found herself, make it!

Ere long she must have devised some plan for withdrawing, for the loss of reputation, or avowal of her marriage, must otherwise have been the
confe-

consequence; and how to have managed this she knew not.

The present summons not only removed this difficulty, but relieved her from the intolerable persecution she had suffered from Sir Charles Berkeley, who, in pursuance of his plan, had continued to devote all his time and attention to her.

To be relieved from these cares, and to see again her beloved parents, and still dearer husband, was a source of such joy to Ann, that she would not allow the reflection of what it might await her in England, to drive

drive with the price current of satisfaction that flowed into her heart.

With far different sensations did the Princess Royal peruse her letter, brought by the same hand: she deeply regreted the necessity of restoring Ann to her parents. She really loved her, and was too good a judge of merit, not to apprehend that where it was so great, its effects would impress others as forcibly as herself. Ann would now again lie in the Duke's way; she feared the consequences, and hence resolved to write her suspicions to the King; and in case she thought it hereafter requisite,

site, even to make a visit to England, to prevent what she apprehended.

Ann's hopes of getting rid of one care, by her removal from the Court of Orange, were not so soon accomplished as she had flattered herself they would.

Sir Charles Berkeley pretended to have received an order from England, requiring his immediate presence, and announced his designs of returning in the same vessel with Miss Hyde.

As she had no means of opposing this, she was obliged to acquiesce, however

however disagreeable; but she resolved to confine herself, with Harris, to her cabin as much as possible, that he might have no opportunity of persecuting a suit so hateful to her.

Tears of unfeigned sorrow overflowed the eyes of Ann, on taking leave of the Princess, who had been her protectress, and to whom she was truly attached.

Nor could her Royal Highness restrain her's; for a moment pride yielded its place to sensibility, and she pressed her to her heart as tenderly

derly, as if she had been a sister of her choice.

This sorrowful farewell (and one still more affecting with the friend who had attended her marriage) being over, Ann embarked for England.

Her passage would have been pleasant, but for the restraint Sir Charles's company imposed on her keeping firm to her resolution.

She sedulously avoided him, and though he was very pathetic in his lamentations of her cruelty, it did not seem to produce any very deep concern in him.

I HAVE

I HAVE said nothing on the subject of the correspondence that took place between the Duke and Ann, because it is natural to conclude, you would judge what the tenure of it was.

The same cause will preclude my relating the manner of Ann's meeting her family.

That

That all was joy and happiness will easily be conceived; nor was Harris's satisfaction inferior to that of any present:—restored to her native country; welcomed as a friend by the family who had brought her up, she thought the moment that restored her to them, the happiest of her life.

A suite of apartments were appropriated to the sole use of Ann, to receive what visitors she might chuse. These apartments, the tender attention of a parent, had ornamented with all that was splendid and elegant. Nor was there any attention, parental tenderness could display,
that

that was not lavished by the Chancellor and Lady Clarendon, on their beloved child.

This conduct deeply affected Ann; it pierced her heart with fate's sharpest pang, self condemnation—deeply she regretted that she had betrayed her mother's confidence, that she was now even carrying on a deceit against her.

These reflections were insupportable, and she resolved to intreat the Duke's consent, to acquaint her mother with the secret of their union.

The liberty that was allowed her of receiving whom she pleased, had empowered

empowered her, soon after her arrival, to admit his Royal Highness. How amply did this re-union recompence them for all they had sustained in absence !

When the first effusions of tenderness were over, each recounted all that had passed during their absence, which was too minute, or of too delicate a nature, to be entrusted to a letter.

Ann slightly mentioned Sir Charles Berkeley's addresses. The Duke acknowledged he had heard of them, but attributed them to his sister's request; and satisfied as he was, of the affections of his beloved wife, assured her

her jealousy had lost its power over his heart. He then proceeded to tell her the favorable hopes he had conceived, and whence they were drawn.

These greatly relieved the mind of Ann, who began to be apprehensive it would not long lie in her power, to elude the observation of her family respecting her situation. She took occasion, from the mention of this circumstance, to entreat, the Duke would consent to her entrusting the secret of their union with her mother.

He expressed some apprehensions of this step at the present crisis, however, upon reflection, that the intelligence coming from herself would interest

terest Lady Clarendon more in their favor, than if it came from any other person, he consented, requesting her, however, to engage *unlimited* secrecy before she made the avowal ; for, he said, he knew the Chancellor so well, that he was sure were he apprized of the affair, before the King should be prepared by his, the Duke's, confession for the knowledge, no means on earth would be unemployed by him, to prevail on his Majesty to use all his power to dissolve it. His Highness added, that his knowledge of the Chancellor's inflexible integrity and loyalty, had led him to refrain from soliciting his intimacy ; to which regard for his character also contributed, for
he

he knew the world, in spite of all the proofs he had given of unerring rectitude, would accuse him of encouraging the affair secretly, if he, the Duke, was observed to be much with him; an accusation he knew would, to the Chancellor, be more painful than the severest misfortune which could befall him.

He, therefore, so strongly recommended secrecy, and hoped, ere many days were elapsed, to bring her the happy tidings of having reconciled his Majesty to their union.

This interval was a momentous period for Ann; to Harris she communicated what had passed; and
that

that attentive domestic, ever desirous to shield her mistress, though at her own expence, undertook to disclose the marriage, upon the proposed conditions, to Lady Clarendon, secretly resolving to take all possible share of the blame on herself.

Ann, terrified at the idea of meeting the first shock of her mother's resentment, though it was a smaller evil, in her opinion, than carrying on the deception, accepted, with due acknowledgment, this friendly offer, and, trembling for the event, saw Harris depart in search of Lady Clarendon.







